

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: NORTH **County:** LASSEN

Applicant: LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Project Title: SUSANVILLE FUEL REDUCTION AND WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

Reference Number: SNC 070145

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would treat approximately 380 acres of eastside mixed conifer forest for fire fuels reduction and assist private landowners in meeting standards for defensible space around home sites. Fuel reduction would defend private land resources against potential catastrophic loss during wildfire events and watershed resources against wildfire ignitions from residential properties. Specific actions would include:

- Treatment of 380 acres of mixed conifer forest for fuel reduction, including thinning of closed crown stands in the urban interface and fuel reduction work along evacuation routes;
- Reduce fuel loads by mechanical methods on private lands within a 1,000-acre project area;
- Conduct risk assessments around any homes located within the treatment area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete contract for mechanical fuel reduction services	October 2008
Complete fuels reduction activities in urban interface and along evacuation routes	March 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	May 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fuel reduction treatment and risk assessment services contract (funding to treat specific acreage within a larger landscape project area)	\$95,999
5% Administrative costs	\$4,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$99,999

Letters of Support:

None received.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding at the requested level of \$99,999.

2. Project Summary

Our project is a watershed restoration and fuel reduction project within the Gold Run Creek and Susan River watersheds in Lassen County. It is being implemented on a landscape scale that includes hundreds of private landowners in conjunction with federal efforts.

It is being implemented by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) in partnership with USFS, BLM, NRCS, local government, fire departments, tribes, and private landowners. LCFSC is the lead and applicant for this project.

The primary restoration activities are the thinning of closed crown stands of mixed conifer forest in the residential setting through biomass utilization. Trees within these stands are beginning to succumb to bug kills. Ancillary actions include the risk assessments of hundreds of homes and fuel reduction along evacuation routes.

Our project will aid in restoring and conserving the Region's physical and living resources, aid in the preservation of working landscapes, reduce risk of wildfires, improve water and air quality, assist the Regional economy and enhance public lands. It will restore and protect habitat for numerous endangered species and species of concern.

The project is a priority of the Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Most of the LCFSC administrative needs are being funded by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, the ultimate sign of local and regional support. We are also working in tandem with the USFS, BLM and industrial forest landowners to reduce fuel loads in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

LCFSC no longer builds fuel breaks. We have found that when a catastrophic fire event comes to the community, fuel breaks survive and a good portion of the community is destroyed. Our projects now treat the entire community landscape, assist property owners with meeting 100' clearance requirements and help homeowners identify and address risk within the home ignition zone. LCFSC has completed thousands of acres of landscape scale projects. Our planning effort has been funded with support from NRCS, the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board, the Pit RCD, Susanville Indian Rancheria, the Lassen County RAC, and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. The implementation phase of this project is partially funded by a half million dollar NRCS Conservation Innovative Grant, USFS, BLM, CalFire, Lassen County RAC and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors.

In the aftermath of the Angora Fire, Lassen communities have become models for how to work within a complex environment and reduce wildfire threat, and do so at a reasonable cost. We are asking SNC for \$99,999 and we will use these funds to expand our \$750,000 Susanville Fuel reduction project that began this summer.